

Positive Alternatives 2014 - 15 Quarterly Update

Grantee: CRADLE OF HOPE

Goal: To provide housing assistance and portable cribs to pregnant women and their babies

For the period: Jan 01, 2016 – March 31, 2016

Activity or Service	Activity or Service Description <small>Major Work Plan Activities</small>	Work Plan Count	Program Progress and Accomplishments <small>Report the progress and accomplishments made this period on each activity.</small>	Report Count
Administrative Activities	Maintain application approval process; distribute program materials as needed; maintain, train and manage volunteers; train referral agencies; maintain or replace existing Crib-sites		<p>Beginning in January, Brittany Wiese (Program Director) began visiting partnering agencies in order to become better acquainted and strengthen relationships. She has also taken this opportunity to inform them of changes taking place and the upcoming expansion of the organization.</p> <p>We are currently creating Partnering Agency Orientation Packets which will include a new upgraded application, application guidelines, as well as a Safe Sleep information pamphlet. When an agency is interested they will receive this packet and will have an in-person or phone orientation with the Program Director. This system will hopefully provide clear guidance in our process as well as build a personal relationship with those we partner with.</p> <p>We are still in the midst of our evaluation and survey process. We have reached out to nearly 60 agencies in the "Greater Minnesota" area who are interested in our services and aid. By May we hope to have the data collection process completed and turned in to our consultants for analyzation.</p>	
Crib Distribution/ Sleep Safety Education	Provide newborns with portable cribs (Pack 'N Plays)	116	<p>During this quarter we opened yet another crib-site in the "Greater Minnesota" part of the state. Per the request of one of our partnering agencies (who is also a crib-site), we increased their supply by 1/3 to help meet their demand. During this time we also exhausted</p> <p>As always, we have processes in place to be sure women are provided sleep safety education before the Pack 'N Plays are distributed to them.</p>	14

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Housing Assistance	Provide funding for housing assistance	38	Once again, we had a considerable increase in applications for rent this quarter. Each application received for rental assistance is considered carefully, and where the need is justified we are pleased to help. Our goal is always to help a mother become sustained and empowered; we are pleased that we are able to provide them the opportunity to stay in their homes.	70

Maternal and Child Health Initiative Task Force Strategies	No.
<i>Number of women who received car seats and car seat safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received car seat safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received child abuse prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received abusive head trauma (shaken baby) prevention education from a PA funded program activity</i>	
<i>Number of women who received a baby bed, crib, or pack-n-play and sleep safety education from a PA funded program activity</i>	14
<i>Number of women who received sleep safety education only from a PA funded program activity</i>	

Challenges: As we have become established in our roles, and have become more acquainted with our agency, we have found it to be a challenge reaching our 200+ agencies we partner with statewide. However, we have made extra efforts to meet personally on a regular basis to establish relationships, and build rapport, with our partnering agencies in hopes to open communication and in turn help more mothers and children.

Comments: We continue to appreciate and are encouraged by the MN Department of Health's consistent support of our program—*particularly* at this time when we are transitioning with new staff and expanding our agency. Once more, thank you for your patience as we become acclimated and we are eager to carry on the COH torch!